

NATIONAL HORSEMEN'S BENEVOLENT & PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION

2015 WINTER CONVENTION FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Brian W. Fitzgerald
February 2015

I. The New 114th Congress

- A. Republicans are now the majority party in both the U. S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate and control all U.S. House and Senate committees.**
- B. The leaders of the committees that have jurisdiction over our key issues are as follows:**
 - 1. U.S. House Energy and Commerce Chairman Rep. Fred Upton (R-MI) and Ranking Member Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ); House Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade Subcommittee Chairman Rep. Mike Burgess, M.D. (R-TX), and Ranking Member Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-IL);
 - 2. U.S. Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee Chairman John Thune (R-SD) and Ranking Member Bill Nelson (D-FL);
 - 3. U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Charles Grassley (R-IA) and Ranking Member Pat Leahy (D-VT); and
 - 4. U.S. Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and Ranking Member Ron Wyden (D-OR).

II. Key Issues in the 114th U.S. Congress

- A. **Federal Medication Issue:** *Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act*, H.R. 2012 and S. 973)
- B. **Gaming bills:** *Restoration of America's Wire Act*, H.R. 4301 and S. 1406; *Internet Gambling, Enforcement and Consumer Protection Act*, H.R. 2282; *Internet Poker Freedom Act*, H.R. 3491
- C. **Tax issues** such as the 3-year depreciation of race horses that was extended retroactively for one year, but expired at the end of 2014
- D. **Immigration reform**
- E. **Other issues**, such as the *Prevent All Soring Tactics Act*, H. R. 1518 and S. 1406, could potentially provide a vehicle for amendments as they move through the legislative process

III. Report on Recent Meetings with Key Senior U.S. Congressional Staff

- A. Majority Counsel for House Energy and Commerce Committee
- B. Majority Counsel for Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee
- C. Majority Counsel for House Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade Subcommittee
- D. Legislative Assistant for Representative Andy Barr (R-KY)
- E. Scheduling of other key meetings on Capitol Hill in process

IV. Questions and/or Comments

